

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PEOPLE PARTICIPATION:**

### **A CASE OF VILLAGE PANCHAYAT IN TAMIL NADU**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The Panchayat Raj system a much popularized and deeply discussed all over the world in the recent years among the public, politicians as well as bureaucratic. Every social problem discusses on global or national levels but does not find any proper out any solution, because lack people participation. But most of the problems discussed and found solution through the Panchayat Raj Institution. The present study aims at collecting the opinion of the people with regard to the performance of village panchayat in the development of panchayat villages and its people.

**KEYWORDS:** Panchayat Raj Institution, Decentralize Power, Empower Ordinary Citizen

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The establishment of panchayat raj was seen by many as an effort to decentralize power and to empower the ordinary citizen to make his own choices and decision in local affairs and matters affecting his daily life. The local self governments, panchayat raj system, as they were called were ancient institutions and were themselves small republics. They exercised powers in various spheres such as industrial, commercial, administrative and social, including civic education and religious functions. A feature of there institutions was that they were largely self governing although their social background was characterized by a rigid social structure. It is now widely accepted that self-governing institutions at the local level are essential for national growth and for effective people's participation and they are an integral and indispensable part of the democratic process.

The present global trend in democratic governance is democratic decentralization and strengthening of the local self-governments as strong grass root levels democratic institutions. Such institutions with appropriate safeguards for weaker sections fulfill the aspirations of wider section the public. They provide opportunities for their own governance and effective delivery mechanism for poverty alleviation and rural development, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and gender. These are the best agencies to facilitate the process of decentralized planning. The process of socio-economic development in rural areas gets priority focus by channeling the resources and development efforts to meet the community needs as per their own priorities.

Local government may be loosely defined as a public organization authorized to decide and administer a limited range of public policies within a relatively small territory which is a sub-division or a regional or national government. Local government is at the bottom of the pyramid of government institutions, with the national government at the top and intermediate governments (state, regional, provincial) occupying the middle range. Normally, local government has general jurisdiction and is not confined to the performance of one specific function or service.

In panchayat, two type of people directly participation, first the elected representatives who are the public leaders and do not receive any salary or allowances for contributing their time and talents to serve society. The second category of people is the staff or panchayat such as Gram Panchayat Adhikari, clark, chaukida, etc,. Besides panchayat representatives and the staff, the involvement and cooperation of several other people and organization is also sought by the panchayat. The success of panchayat organization therefore depends on how effectively these people are managed for execution and implementation of rural schemes. It is now widely accepted that self-governing institutions at the local level are essential for national growth and for affective people's participation and that they are an integral and indispensable part of the democratic process. Grass roots of democracy based on small units of governments, enables people's to feel a sense of responsibility and to inculcate the values of democracy. At the same time it also offers a unique opportunity to participate in public affairs, including development work.

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

The previous study provides evidence as to what is familiar with what is already know and what is still unknown and untested which helps to eliminate that of what has been done and provides useful hypothesis and suggestions for significant investigations. The literature have been collected, reviewed and discussed from various scholars. These studies have concentrated on the extensive field of panchayat raj as well as over all development of village. It is observed that the study of people opinion on the performance by village panchayat is not taken anyone and it is an unknown area. Based on reviews, objectives have been generated.

### **Objectives of the Study**

- To find out the socio-economic status of the people in Village Panchayat.
- To gather people's opinion on the performance of development function by the Village Panchayat.

The samples of the study in drown by using simple random sampling method. The sample of the study is selected in 237 respondents of Village Panchayat. In this study both male and female respondents from the different age groups are included.

### **Tools for Data Collection**

The interview schedule was prepared on the basis of the objectives of study. The finalized interview schedule was administered among the respondents for gathering relevant information from them. The data are collected through observation and interview by the investigator. Collected data was tabulated and analyzed by percentage techniques.

### **Sources of Data**

The data that were gathered directly from the respondents formed the primary sources of data. The secondary data related to the topic of the study were collected from the various books, articles, and journal, internet and government records. The data related the panchayat profile was collected from the office records of the Panchayat.

### **Data Analysis and Interpretation**

The data obtained from 237 respondents with the help of an interview schedule has been analyzed by the SPSS. The investigator has formulated many simple tables, which are self-explanatory with the data based on the objectives of the study.

## MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- The present study has taken majority (54 per cent) of the respondents are male.
- It is found that majority (60 per cent) of the respondents fall in the age group of 21 to 40 years, and the remaining 40 per cent of the respondents fall under 41 to 70 years.
- The study concludes that representation is given to all community people while collecting opinion about the performance of the village panchayat.
- It is found that 93 per cent of the respondents are educated.
- It is understood from the study village has the population professing different religion.
- This study reveals that majority of the respondents are not having adequate annual income to meet the basic needs of their life.
- It is found that 81 per cent of the respondents live in nuclear families.
- It is crystal clear that 94 per cent of the respondents have own houses according to their economic status.
- This study illustrates that 69 percent of the respondents living in huts.
- Though the study portrays the fact that the fair performance of the panchayati regarding the provision of basic amenities, yet the panchayati has not taken serious steps to provide market facilities to sell and purchase the goods by the villages (83 per cent).
- In this panchayat there is a good performance of SSA and the fair performance of primary and secondary schools, Adult and Non-formal education and village library by the panchayati. The panchayati has yet to take more initiative to promote the functioning of village library, adult and non-formal education and the primary schools within its jurisdiction.
- This study found that the non-provision of the drainage facilities; public toilet and primary health center, it also found the fair performance of medical camps in the panchayat village.
- It reveals the good performance of cultural activities and family welfare scheme by the panchayat. The very interesting finding is that there is no practice of child labour. It is one of the better practices. The more painful finding is that the Dalit people's development is left uncared.
- The present study finds that the good performance on Namadhu Gramam Thittam by the panchayat, the bad performance of youth clubs and the improper implementation of poverty alleviation programmes in the panchayat village.
- The analysis of the study concludes that there is no proper water management system in the panchayat villages.
- Though the gram sabha is a tool for village panchayat to bring local peoples participation in village governance, the panchayat has failed to achieve it.

## RECOMMENDATION

On the basis of the findings of the study and observations from the following recommendations are offered.

- The village panchayat taken for the present study is very weak and do not able to perform functions. It is recommended that imparting training to the existing staff and the NGOs and other institutions may do elected representatives.
- The village panchayat has inadequate financial resources. Attempts should be made to mobilize resources for village panchayat, by increasing of various taxes such as house tax, water tax, vehicles tax and the like.
- Panchayat organization lacks adequate participation of all sections of people like Women, Youth, Dalits and others. Non-officials of the panchayat have to make effort to promote people's participation in village administration by developing their knowledge and skills through organizing some awareness-training programme by the university and colleges.
- Development of entrepreneurship among rural women and rural educated youth is vital for the development of rural industry. Village panchayat should try to motivate them to take up joint projects so that group's entrepreneurship could be developed.
- Lack of organic linkage among elected representative staff and people. It is major administrative problem.
- The attitudinal change among the people and the elected representatives may create an environment for mutual understanding and thereby the involvement of people in gram sabha meetings and its universities. To bring the attitudinal changes, the universities the NGOs and media personnel's have to develop some programmes to educate the members of various civil societies in the villages and intern those trained members of the civil society may take up the responsibility of educating and motivating the general public in the panchayat villages.

## CONCLUSIONS

The 73rd constitution amendments of the constitution of India and the Tamil Nadu Panchayati Raj Act 1994 have provided for the creation of the gram sabha and there by establish direct democracy. It is enable the people to participate in governance to achieve economic development and social justice at the grassroots. If the members of the gram sabha are to participate effectively in the governance at the grass roots level they should have awareness about the gram sabha and its role and responsibilities, the organization, personnel and finance of Panchayati Raj Institution, the control exercised over Panchayat Raj Institution and the various developmental programmes available to the people. A critical evaluation of these aspects in the present study reveals that people don't have sufficient knowledge about Panchayat Raj Institutions and the various development programmes implemented that the benefit of people. The participation of the people in the gram panchayat in village panchayat is not satisfactory. The success of democratic decentralization and development administration at the grass root levels depend wholly on the extent of the participation in the grass roots governance.

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